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ACFOA

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Fax no: (03) 416 2746

To: Kathlin and Luisa T. Pereira, CDPM

Fax no: _____ No of pages 2.5

Sender: D WALSH Date 22/10/90

Remarks

Please pass on to CDPM after you have copied, thankyou. Can you also request Luisa to fax me re her meeting with Bishop Belo — as soon as possible. Obrigado!

Pat Walsh.

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

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TO: Carl Murphy, Indonesia Desk, DFAT Fax (03) 416 2746

FROM: Pat Walsh

DATE: 22 October 1990

Re reports of recent conflict in Dili, East Timor

Sources in Indonesia have reported a series of clashes in Dili during the last two weeks involving mainly East Timorese youth and the Indonesian police and military. The sources concur on some aspects and differ on others.

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Sources in Indonesia have reported a series of clashes in Dili during the last two weeks involving mainly East Timorese youth and the Indonesian police and military. The sources concur on some aspects and differ on others. Further detail and confirmation is being sought.

1. On October 8, students at a government high school in Dili (possibly Fatu Hada) hooted and jeered a Javanese public servant who came to talk on Pancasila. The official left, deeply offended, and reported the incident to the authorities who sent in dozens of armed military and police who occupied the school for three days and interrogated and beat students. The students complained to Governor Carrascalao about the over-reaction of the military and the attitude of the Indonesian lecturer. The Governor reportedly agreed with the students.

2. A few days later, 'subversive' literature was allegedly found at another secondary school. The military interrogated students, beating some with rifle butts. The school was closed for the week. The school was possibly the Catholic school in Bairro Central, Dili.

3. Another account states that tearing up or burning of an Indonesian flag led to the security intervention referred to above.

4. During the same period, Dili was subject to increased security sparked by the theft of a firearm. Searches, random detentions and beatings ensued involving police, soldiers and masked men (who, according to Governor Carrascalao are Apodeti collaborating with the military). Another account claims that two weapons were seized by Timorese youth during clashes with the security on 15 and 17 October.

5. Four parts of Dili were reportedly declared 'red zones' (no go areas): Taibesse, Bemori, Santa Cruz, Haudian. In addition, the area in the close vicinity of Hotel Turismo was cordoned off reportedly to prevent Timorese youth gaining access to visiting diplomats who included Dutch, British, French, Malaysian and German officials.

6. One source claims 4 Timorese youth were killed: Balapo, Joao Lay, David da Conceicao, Tomas Aquino. Another: six, adding the names Carlos and Sergio Fontura, and that two Indonesian soldiers were shot, accidentally, by their own comrades. Yet another source, which is aware of the reports of deaths, has not been able to obtain reliable confirmation. However, all sources concur that there have been injuries (e.g. one Indonesian soldier is in a serious condition in hospital after being beaten by youth, while a Timorese youth is hospitalised following a beating by Indonesian military) and that

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there have been detentions. Detainees included Candido Soares, Tomas Soares, Marques Soares (18), Cancio (19) and two adult men Joao Hau and nurse (infirmao) Manuel.

7. It has also been reported that Aleixo Vicente, from the Sao Jose Catholic High School, was arrested 15 days ago and has been repeatedly tortured.

8. East Timorese students in Bali are reportedly being harassed and an attempt has been made to run over a student named Lucas.

9. Young people in Dili are allegedly trying to contact Bishop Belo, who is currently in Europe, requesting him to return home immediately because of the situation in Dili.

10. Bishop Belo has reportedly written to a colleague in Australia advising that he will not visit in November as planned as time does not permit a comprehensive pastoral visit to the whole Timorese community in Australia.

Request: enquiries regarding these reports, particularly those relating to deaths and detentions, and appropriate representations.

Ends